

Walker

Senate

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND WELFARE

Minutes of Meeting - February 24, 1971

Re: S.B. 148

Chairman Walker, Committee members Senators Hug, Herr, Hecht, Young present.

Guests (see attached sheet)

Senate Bill No. 148, proposed by Senator Walker - Authorizes establishment of Community Mental Health Centers

Mrs. Pat Mikawa was the first to testify on SB 148. She expressed the support of the Washoe County Advisory Board on Mental Health and Retardation for favorable action on this bill. She made copies available to the Committee of surveys taken in Nevada since 1957 indicating the need for Centers as well as copies of proposed budgets for the next three years. The Advisory Board has asked for money from Washoe County based on SB 148. Senator Walker asked about the availability of federal funds. Mrs. Mikawa said that this would have to be classified under new programs and she was not sure what money the regional office had available in their new programs budget and that they would have to send in a grant application.

Mrs. Mikawa said the Advisory Board is presently made up mostly of professional people (physicians and psychiatrists) and the Community Health Center Board should be more broadly represented by community people. She also questioned the need for the Advisory Board to the Division of Mental Hygiene and Mental Retardation. She said that the intention of the Community Health Center would be to use existing services and buildings, and that the Center would be the point of coordination between the available agencies and buildings.

Mrs. Mikawa gave a few ideas on new programs. They would include such things as (1) home visits - for example, working with the police. She said approximately 50% of police calls to people's homes involve family problems where a counselor could take over rather than the police. (2) preventive programs - offering prenatal care, nutrition programs, etc.

There was further discussion on the location of the headquarters, agency participation, and estimated number of people that would be treated in the Center.

Senator Young asked about payments by the patients. Mrs. Mikawa said that people would pay in accordance with their ability. They would set up a sliding B scale to determine what they could afford. The money received would then be deducted from locally provided money (state and county).

John Altrocchi, Ph.D., University of Nevada, Reno, said there are so many people in a community that need psychological help that no hospital can begin to handle all of them. He said that the Center would stress people and services rather than buildings. They would be using community people who are already helping, and use highly trained professionals to work in consulting and training these people.

Reverend Howard Gloyd, with the Economic Opportunity Program in Washoe County, testified and offered support for SB 148. Senator Walker asked him if there was some relationship between mental problems and the level of income. Rev. Gloyd felt many problems of the low income, unemployed, and black people could be resolved by the Center acting as a direct line to the community to bridge the gap. It would be a place for these people to go and discuss their problems with concerned people who could coordinate with employers, etc.

Eugene E. Montgomery, a psychiatrist from Reno, discussed the great need of this type of Center for people who cannot afford private psychiatric help.

Nelson Neff, Nevada State Board of Medical Examiners, stated his support. He suggested an amendment be made to Section 23, subsection 3, by adding after "...who is not a citizen of the United" the following: "or who has not declared his intention of becoming a citizen of the United States."

Senator Young instigated considerable discussion on the ability to pay and whether investigations should be conducted to determine how much a patient can afford to pay.

Dr. Duane Varble, Psychological Service Center at the University in Reno, felt this Center would be especially valuable to their facility. They now have a waiting list because they just can't handle all the individuals that are seeking help with all types of mental health problems, and there are presently no other facilities they can refer them to.

Mrs. Virginia Cain testified as a private citizen in favor of the passage of this bill. She felt the Center could provide counselors and social workers trained to help many of the people that do not require professionals. It would be a place where people could take their problems and confide in some one and not have to worry about the rates.

Mr. Dwight Nelson, a member of the Washoe County Commission, felt that the Community Center is a step in the right direction.

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He felt we are not meeting the needs of the people right now and that the coordination this Center will provide would make it possible for the people to get to the Services, and the services to get to the people. He felt the Commissioners in Washoe would support this in every way.

Senator Walker apologized that they would not be able to hear any more testimony because time had run out. Senator Young moved that the amendment suggested by Mr. Neff be adopted. Senator Hecht seconded the motion, which was carried.

The committee meeting time was changed to Tuesday and Thursday at 1 p.m.

It was decided that another bill would be put in to appropriate money for Washoe County rather than amending this bill to include it because, at present, Washoe is the only county ready to start the program.

Because of lack of time, the following people could not testify but asked that their remarks be included in the minutes as part of the record: Mr. Ray Mills, Inter-Tribal Council; Mrs. Shirley White, LWV, Reno-Sparks-Carson City; Mrs. Jan MacEachern, LWV of Nevada.

The meeting adjourned at 10:05 a.m.

Guests present:

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Mrs. Pat Mikawa, Executive Secretary
Washoe Co. Advisory Board on Mental Health & Retardation
2730 Markridge - Reno 89502

John Altrocchi, Ph.D.
Visiting Professor of Psychology, U of N Reno
Box 279 - Tahoe City, Calif.

Rev. Howard Gloyd, Exec. Dir.
Washoe County Economic Opportunity Program
195 N. Arlington Ave. Reno

Eugene E. Montgomer, M.D.
Psychiatrist; Reno

Nelson Neff, Nevada State Board of Medical Examiners
3660 Baker Lane - Reno

Duane Varble, Ph.D., Director
Psychological Service Center, U of N - Reno

Mrs. Virginia Cain
3710 Clover Way Reno 89502

Mr. Dwight Nelson - Washoe County Commission
205 Smithridge Park Reno

Manuel Wedge, Washoe Association for Retarded Children
440 N. Virginia Reno 89501

Loren Belknap, Ph.D., Chairman
Dept. of Social Services & Corrections, U of N, Reno
3415 Norman Drive Reno

Sidney Weatherhead, M.A., Director
Marriage & Family Counseling Service, Reno
210 W. 2nd Reno

Mel Kirchner, M.A., Director - Testing & Guidance Dept.
Washoe County School Dist - Reno

Mr. Ray Mills, Housing Specialist
Inter-Tribal Council of Nevada

Mrs. Colleen Stotler - Interagency Council on Alcoholism
2260 Arcane Ave. Reno 89503

Mr. Steve Frandsen
2270 Palm Cir. Reno

Mr. Shirley White - League of Women Voters of Reno-Sparks-Carson City
800 Lyman Ave Reno

Mrs. Esther Mathews, Chairman - Crime Prevention & Drug Abuse Committee
National Business and Professional Women's Club of Reno
3345 Probasco Way - Sparks

Guests (continued)

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Mrs. Jan MacEachern
League of Women Voters of Nevada
1300 Denver Street
Boulder City, Nev 89005

Jim Mikawa, Ph.D., Director
Crisis Call & Suicide Prevention Center Reno
195 No. Arlington, Reno, Nev.

Velda Rusch
633 St. Lawrence Ave.
Reno, Nev

Margie DiOrio
449 W. Plumb Lane Reno

Anne Roberts
League of Women Voters of Carson City
900 W. Washington
Carson City, Nevada

Ray D. Mills, Sr.
Housing Specialist Inter Tribal Council of Nevada.
Appearing as an individual.

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I wish to support the Washoe County Comprehensive Center, because as a worker in Indian communities I recognize that the individual needs of the Indians can be very well served through such a center.

Past experience shows that the needs and peculiarities of the local Indian communities are not always recognized. Our problems are basic and varied but one thing we must keep in mind is that our Indian people are difficult to reach and the mechanics of a local center would be more effective and more responsive to the local needs of the Indian people.

Our main problems are mostly in the area of adjusting to the whiteman's value system and way of life. Too often this means:— what opportunities are available to us and what restrictions and obstacles do we have to overcome in order to take advantage of these opportunities? This may seem very minor to you but it does affect our every day life from hospitals, housing, jobs, welfare, roads, food to schools.

We have workers in every Indian community in daily contact with the everyday life and problems of our people, but when family problems and school problems appear and get out of hand, we have no place to turn to for professional help.

Even if we do find some help them, we have no way to establish much needed follow up procedures.

We need a place to turn to and be able to get facts about suicide. We need help in planning special program in family counseling and suicide prevention. We need to coordinate available educational and preventative resources with the tribal councils, tribal judges, Education Committees, Tenant organizations and other local organizations.

We need to keep channels of communication open for our Indians to seek help and to make their plight a legitimate reason for treatment and assistance.

When only one Indian reservation in the State of Nevada with a population of 800 persons had 6 suicides in the past year, then we better start providing resources for managing the suicide crisis. We must be certain of getting the Indians involved in the solutions to their problems, but solutions must not be imposed upon them in such a way as to cause rejection by those they are designed to help.

I believe the Washoe County Comprehensive Center as proposed would meet the needs of many Indians who presently have no one to turn to.

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF NEVADA

24 February 1971

STATEMENT TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND WELFARE

re S. B. 148 - Authorizes establishment of community health centers

I am Mrs. Janet MacEachern, Boulder City, representing the League of Women Voters of Nevada.

We see, in S. B. 148, an opportunity for local communities to provide remedial services, and, what we consider very important, preventive services for many of Nevada's children in trouble.

Members of the League of Women Voters, the past two years, have been making a study of juvenile services in Nevada, the beginning emphasis being on juvenile delinquency. We have found that delinquency results from a combination of factors and, in some instances, the structure of our society may be forcing certain groups of youth into delinquent patterns of life. Among our conclusions is a support position for programs and policies which reduce problems of potential delinquents with the goal of keeping them from ever entering the juvenile justice system, and a correctional philosophy that calls for personal reformation on the part of the offender and creation of community conditions which encourage his successful reentry.

Because we find alternatives such as group homes, half-way houses, probation subsidies, and community treatment centers vastly preferable to incarceration, we particularly like the provisions in Section 18, paragraphs 4 and 5, which would make it possible to provide preventive services to possible delinquents, as well as remedial services where indicated.

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This bill also gains the support of the League for another reason. In our position concerning the State Legislature, we support reducing its concern over local matters, and this bill encourages wide local control and involvement. It also provides a broad base of financial support, including revenues received for services rendered, donations and grants, thus reducing the State's ultimate cost.

We urge adoption of S. B. 148.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

SB-148
Public Hearing
February 24, 1971

AVAILABLE TO TESTIFY

✓ Mrs. Pat Mikawa, Executive Secretary
Washoe County Advisory Board on Mental Health & Retardation

*2730 Markridge Row
89502*

✓ John Altrocchi, Ph.D.
Visiting Professor of Psychology, U. of N., Reno
FROM Duke University
Formerly Director of Halifax County Mental Health Center
Halifax, North Carolina

*Box 279, Federal City
Calif.*

✓ Rev. Howard Gloyd, Executive Director
Washoe County Economic Opportunity Program

195 W. Arlington Ave

✓ Eugene E. Montgomery, M.D.
Psychiatrist; Reno, Nevada
Member, Washoe Planning Board for a Comprehensive Center

✓ Nelson Neff, Executive Secretary
Nevada State Board of Medical Examiners

*Ch. Dir. Nev. State Med. Assoc
3660 Baker Lane, Reno*

✓ Duane Varble, Ph.D., Director
Psychological Service Center, U. of N., Reno

✓ Mrs. Virginia Cain
Washoe County citizen

3710 Clover way, Reno 89502

✓ Mr. Dwight Nelson, Member
Washoe County Commission

205 Smithridge Park, Reno

✓ Manuel Wedge, Executive Director
Washoe Association for Retarded Children

440 N. Va - Reno 89501

✓ Loren Belknap, Ph.D., Chairman
Dept. of Social Services & Corrections, U. of N., Reno

3415 Norman Dr. Reno

- ✓ Sid ^{my} Weatherhead, M.A., Director
 Marriage & Family Counseling Service, Reno
 210 W 2nd, Reno, Nev
- ✓ Mel Kirchner, M.A., Director
 Testing & Guidance Dept.
 Washoe County Schools *Dist. Reno*
- Mr. Ray Mills
 Inter-Tribal Council
- ✓ Mrs. Colleen Stotler, Member *Sec.*
 Interagency Council on Alcoholism *2260 Arcane Ave, Reno 89503*
- ✓ Mr. Steve Frandsen
 Washoe County Citizen *2270 Palm Cr, Reno -*
 Ex-addict
- ✓ Mrs. Shirley White
 League of Women Voters of Reno-Sparks-Carson City *800 Lyman Ave
 Reno*
- ✓ Mrs. Esther Mathews, Chairman
 Crime Prevention & Drug Abuse Committee *? 3345 Probasco Way
 Sparks*
 National Business & Professional Women's Club of Reno
- ✓ League of Women Voters of Nevada
 (Mrs. Esther Nicholson or Mrs. Jan MacEachern) *1300 Denver St
 B C 89005*
- ✓ Jim Mikawa, Ph.D., Director
 Crisis Call & Suicide Prevention Center *195 W. Arlington, Reno*

SB-148

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF RENO, SPARKS, AND CARSON CITY SUPPORTS THE ESTABLISHMENT OF NEW AND IMPROVED MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES. WE VIEW THE PROPOSED WASHOE COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE CENTER AS NECESSARY TO INSURE THE DEVELOPMENT OF SUCH SERVICES IN WASHOE COUNTY.

WE THEREFORE REQUEST YOUR SUPPORT OF THIS PROGRAM THROUGH SB-148, WHICH ENABLES NEVADA COUNTIES TO ESTABLISH COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH CENTERS AND TO RECEIVE PARTIAL FUNDING FOR THEM FROM THE STATE OF NEVADA.